THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) All Mother NGOs identified under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme were requested to take up project activities to create awareness about the provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 in the respective area of jurisdiction. Financial assistance has also been released to the following NGOs to carry out such activities in their respective project areas.

1. Orissa Voluntary Health Association, Bhubaneswar (Area: Orissa)
2. Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi (Area: Punjab, Haryana, H.P., Tamil Nadu).
3. Voluntary Health Association of Maharashtra, Wardha (Area: Wardha).
4. Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Health Association, Luncknow, U.P. (Area: Uttar Pradesh).
5. SAMNAVAY, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (Area: Uttaranchal).
6. Kerala Voluntary Health Services, Kottayam, Kerala (Area: entire State of Kerala).
7. Family Planning Association of India (Madurai Branch), Tamil Nadu (Area: Madurai).
8. Rural Education and Development Society (REDS), Tamil Nadu (Area: South Tamil Nadu).
9. Family Planning Association of India Mumbai (Area: Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Patna, Gomia, Jaipur, Panchkula, Yamuna Nagar and Mohali).

(c) States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organizations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act.

Eradication of leprosy

3495. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to eradicate leprosy through National Leprosy Eradication Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of leprosy cases in the country; and

(d) by when the country could achieve elimination of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) in all the States/UTs for the elimination of Leprosy.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is a 100% Centrally sponsored scheme with the objective of achieving the elimination of leprosy *i.e.* prevalence Rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 population, at national level, by March, 2004.

The details of the Programme are:—

(i) Decentralization and Institutional Development under which State Leprosy Societies have been formed in 27 major States and District Leprosy Societies in all the original 557 districts in the country.

(ii) Integration of Leprosy services with General Health Care.

(iii) Two rounds of Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaigns (MLEC) for case detection throughout the country during 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(iv) Early Leprosy Case Detection and Free Multi Drug Therapy to all patients.

(v) Special Action Projects for elimination of Leprosy (SAPEL) and Leprosy Elimination Campaign (LEC) for difficult/inaccessible/ under served Rural and Urban areas, respectively.

(vi) Intensified Public Awareness Campaigns.

(vii) Training of Health Staff in disability prevention and care.

(viii) Training of General Health Care Staff in Leprosy.

(c) The number of leprosy patients in the country as per reports received till 31st March, 2002, is 4.92 lakhs.

(d) Government of India is aiming to achieve the elimination of leprosy by March, 2004.